HEALTH OF TOWNS.

PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTING SUB-SEWERS AS A NECESSARY AUXILIARY TO THE PRESENT SEWERS.

THESE sewers may be constructed of cast-iron ribs, fixing into a cast-iron keelson, having on a cast-iron crown plate, the whole so formed as to key into one another without screws or bolts.

The sub-sewers are to run along and beneath the north and south sides of the shores of the river Thames, a little above low water mark, and proceed down the river to the lower parts of Essex and Kent into receptacles or reservoirs formed of cast-iron plates (something similar to gasometers), and with partitions having gratings or meshes of sizes proper for the purpose of separating the filth from the liquid, which will run into the last chamber, and be allowed to stand to settle. Now, if a column of pulverized quick-lime is run into the sewer at any given point previous to its exit from theses into the reservoirs, every thing that is held in solution in the liquid will be chemically thrown down (the theory of the process of which is, the contents of the sewerage being highly charged with carbonic acid, immediately the pulverized lime comes in contact therewith, the liquid is chemically acted upon, and what was held in solution immediately falls down), thereby separating the water, which may be turned off, and leaving the residue, which may be passed through a powerful mill in order to pulverise and thoroughly incorporate it, after which it can be put into an hydraulic press and formed into blocks of any shape or size best fitted for conveying to any parts of the empire. A column of sea water might be advantageously run into the sewers, the saline portions of which would prove highly beneficial to the manure.

The Chinese are particularly ingenious in their manures, but I question whether the proposed admixture would not be superior to any. Messrs. Rennie and Telford stated, in their evidence delivered before the London Bridge Committee, "that there were several thousand tons of the most valuable manure running into the Thames from the metropolitan sewers every hour, thereby polluting the water to that excessive degree, that it was fast approaching an immense ditch, and so excessively filthy that no tea-kettle laboratory could properly filter the water so as to be fit for domestic purposes." As to the capability of the soil,—"It is" (says Sir George Stephenson, the eminent engineer) "my decided conviction, founded upon close and extensive personal observation, that the soil of England, if properly treated, will produce four times the amount of human food that it yields under the present system. Upon the most moderate supposition by adopting these sub-sewers, there would be an actual saving to the country annually of upwards of two millions of tons of the most valuable manure, containing all the urates (animal salts), &c., which, if sold to the land-holders and farmers at 10s. per ton, would materially aid them to meet any pressure of the times. Besides, the Iron trade of this great nation is in a depressed state, at all times fluctuating; the government, by constructing these sub-sewers, would permanently raise the price of iron, because Bristol, Hull, Liverpool, and other towns would at once adopt similar sewers for husbanding the manure. From a rough calculation, I presume these metropolitan sub-sewers would cost about seven millions sterling, and the revenue derivable therefrom would amount annually to upwards of one million. And if the whole of the Commissioners of Sewers were merged or consolidated into one board, as they ought to be, and not to remain the irresponsible bodies without any head, in the receipt of enormous sums of money, not accountable for the same, and continually fighting at cross purposes with each other, the present rates that are collected would amply suffice to liquidate the construction thereof. It is not within the scope of calculation the immense benefits that would result from the government or country adopting these sub-sewers.

In Edinburgh, the watchmen, at 6 o'clock in the morning, turn on the fire, or rather water, cocks in the streets, and sweep all before them down the gratings; why cannot the same be done by the able-bodied poor of this great dirty metropolis, which might be made the healthiest and cleanest city in the world, and its vast expansive river rolling through it kept free from all impurities polluting it, by the legislature compelling the water companies to erect (free) against every gas lamp-post a water or fire-plug, the same to be kept always charged (the water companies would above get an equivalent in the shape of pure water); an enactment to compel every house, manufactory, or premises, to have a good and sufficient shoot from their privies and drains into the common sewers, all the streets to be thoroughly washed every twenty-four hours, the grave-yards of the metropolis to be for ever closed, and seven feet of clay laid thereon, and planted with trees? Bishop Latimer, in his days, said "That it was an eternal disgrace to the clergy to allow the burials to go on in a large crowded town," as they were then increasing to an alarming extent; what would he have said at this time of day, mixing up 45,000 dead annually amidst the living? By washing the streets once every twenty-four hours, there would be no necessity for scavengers' carts, or hightmen, or watering carts. These sub-sewers ought to precede the Thames embankment. They might be constructed nearly the whole extent without erecting any coffer-dam, which will appear clear on a casual survey; if they are commenced at the termines and brought up the river, all the water accumulating on excavating will pass through the reservoirs. Lastly, it would form a legitimate source of revenue of upwards of one million sterling annually; and if the government neglect doing it, it might be established through the means of a public company.

RICHARD ROWED.

ASSESSED TAXES CASES.

Determined by the Judges on Appeal.

Windows—Warehouse—Dairy—Brewhouse—Post-office receiving-room.

A warehouse used solely for storing grain and other things, having an internal communication with the dwelling-house, of which also it is part and parcel; a dairy and cheese-room on an extensive farm, held by a farmer who was an innkeeper and postmaster, held liable to duty, the former as being part of the dwelling-house, and the latter because appellant's house was not appropriated to farming purposes only: And semble, that brewhouse windows, made without glass, with wooden shutters only, and placed there as much for the purpose of letting the steam escape as for admitting light; and windows of a room on the ground floor of a dwelling-house, set apart wholly for receiving and sorting letters, appellant being post-master, are chargeable with duty.

AT a meeting of the commissioners of land and assessed taxes, acting in and for the division of Mowddwy, county of Merioneth, held at the Goat Inn, Dinas, the 4th September, 1840, for the purpose of hearing appeals against the first assessments (48 Geo. 3, c. 55, sc. A);—Charles James Lloyd, of Mallwyd, innkeeper, post-master, and farmer, appealed and claimed exemptions for six windows.

The appellant stated that he claimed exemption for two windows in a room over part of his dwelling-house, having an internal communication therewith, wherein grain and other things are stored and kept, and is used as a warehouse only; that such, therefore, are exempt from duty by virtue of the board's letter, dated July 28, 1840—3363; that being the tenant and occupier of an extensive farm, and the owner of a large dairy, he claimed exemption under the 4th section of 6 Geo. 4, c. 7, sch. (A, R. 3) for two other windows, one of which is in a dairy, and one in a cheese-room, both of which are only partially glazed; that the said rooms are wholly set apart for the purposes of the farm, and are used in no other way than as a dairy and cheese-room, the words are duly and properly painted on the doors of the said rooms; that by virtue of the said Act, he is entitled to exemption for the windows thereon. That he claimed exemption also for one brewhouse window made without glass, with wooden shutter only, and placed there as much for the purpose of allowing the steam to escape as for the purpose of admitting light therein; that it never could be intended that windows of such description should be brought into an assessment. That he claimed exemption also for one window in a small room on the ground floor of his dwelling-house, in the north front thereof, appropriated and wholly set apart for the receipt and sorting of letters; that his house is a receiving-house, and that a letter-box is placed in the said window, and country letters are exposed therein; that it being the window of a public office, and the room used in no other way, it must be considered to be exempt from duty. The commissioners present concurred with the view taken by the appellant in every instance, and relieved him from the charge for the whole of the said windows; with which determination the surveyor was dissatisfied, and contended, with respect to the two warehouse windows, that such being a room of his dwelling-house, and having an internal communication therewith, it was not the manufactory or warehouse contemplated by the said letter; its windows, therefore, were not exempt from duty; and with regard to the dairy and cheese-room windows, the appellant was not entitled to the relief granted in respect thereof, inasmuch as his house is not a farm-house *bonâ fide* used for the purposes of husbandry only, and demanded that the case be stated for the opinion of her Majesty's judges.

Rowland Rees, of Dinas, innkeeper, also appealed at the same time and place, and was allowed two brewhouse windows, under precisely the same circumstances as the one allowed in the foregoing case, subject to the decision of the judges thereon.

Given under our hands this 2nd day of February, 1841.

WILLIAM PUGH,
JOHN THOMAS, } Commissioners.

We are of opinion, that the determination of the commissioners is wrong.

J. PATTESON. T. COLTMAN. W. WIGHTMAN.

Windows—Warehouse—What is not, within the Act.

Appellant claimed exemption for one window in a back shop or warehouse in addition to one already allowed in the front shop; such back shop or warehouse being part of the shop and on the ground floor, separated from the shop by a partition, and communicating therewith by a door, used solely as a shop or warehouse, and under the same roof with the rest of the house. Held, not exempt, being part of the dwelling-house.

AT a meeting of the commissioners of land and assessed taxes, acting in and for the division of Ardudwyn, county of Merioneth, held at Llanddwywe, the 21st and 22nd days of August, 1840, for the purpose of hearing appeals against the first assessments (48 Geo. 3, c. 55, sch. A.);—Margaret Griffiths, of Llanddwywe, grocer and draper on a limited scale, appealed against a charge of nine windows. The appellant stated that she claimed exemption for one window in a back shop or warehouse included in the said number, in addition to one already allowed in the front shop; that the room in question is part of the shop and on the ground floor, separated therefrom by a partition, and communicates therewith by a door; that it is used solely as a shop and warehouse; that the dwelling-house extends over the whole of the front and back shop, and hath an internal communication therewith, but forms no part whatever thereof; that the said window looks into a field at the back, through or near to which there is no foot or road way, therefore no goods are therein exposed for sale; that the exemptions provided for shops and warehouses by the 1st section of the 4 Geo. 4, c. 11, and the board's letter of the 28th July, 1840—3,363, apply in every respect to this case, and exempt her from the duty on the said windows. The commissioners present being also of that opinion, allowed the appeal, and reduced the assessment accordingly; the surveyor, on the contrary, contended that such decision was not within the meaning of the said Act and letter, inasmuch that it was not a front or fronts of the house, and had no goods exposed therein for sale, and that he considered the front and back shop in every respect a part and parcel of the dwelling-house, demanded that a case be stated for the opinion of her Majesty's judges.

Given under our hands this 4th day of February, 1841.

DAVID EVANS,
RICHARD DAVIES. } Commissioners.

We are of opinion, that the determination of the commissioners is wrong.

J. PATTESON. T. COLTMAN. W. WIGHTMAN.

The population of the parish of Liverpool is 223,054; of whom 160,000 belong to the working classes, of whom a large proportion inhabit courts and cellars, the remainder living in houses or rooms to the front of the street. The courts consist of two rows of houses placed opposite to each other, with an intervening space of from nine to fifteen feet, and having two to six or eight houses in each row. Of these courts there are 1,982, containing 10,692 houses and 55,534 inhabitants. The cellars are ten or twelve feet square, frequently having only the bare earth for a floor, and sometimes less than six feet in height. There is frequently no window. There is sometimes a back cellar used as a sleeping apartment, having no direct communication with the external atmosphere, and deriving its scanty supply of light and air solely from the front apartment.

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